About 71% of women are involved in various activities in dairy sector. They have been at the forefront of Dairy Cooperative Movement which was initially carried under the "Operation Flood" Programme and later under the "Integrated Dairy Development Programme" implemented by the Central Government.

(c) Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering a Central Sector Scheme called 'Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) scheme which provides skill upgradation training in animal husbandry and dairying sectors by mobilizing women in *via*ble cooperative/SHGs, arranging for marketing linkages, support services and access to credit etc. Financial assistance is provided to women beneficiaries through various implementing agencies.

The Indian Council of Agriculture Research has established a Directorate of Women in Agriculture with the major objective of empowering of women in agriculture with advance knowledge and skills in farm operations. Such empowerment schemes carried out through training and demonstration also covers the animal husbandry sub sector. In addition to this all the Kissan Vikas Kendras in the country carried out women centric training in Animal Husbandry Sector.

Implementation of National Agriculture Insurance Scheme

3657. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is under implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with crops included and norms for payment under the said scheme;

(c) whether Government proposes to amend the NAIS;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the extent to which the farmers are likely to be benefited under modified NAIS along with the likely additional financial liability on Government as a result thereof during the current financial year; and

(f) how much amount has been paid towards this scheme to farmers in last three years against their crops losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Agricultural Insurance scheme (NAIS) is under implementation in the country from Rabi 1999-2000 season onward. The scheme is voluntary for the States and UTs and is available to all the farmers—loanee and non-loanee both — irrespective of their size of holdings. It envisages coverage of food crops, oilseeds, pulsus and annual commercial/horticultural crops for which yield data is available for adequate number of years.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

As per provisions of the scheme, farmers are not required to file/lodge any claims. The payment of claims in a notified area becomes payable if there is a short fall in yield against guaranteed yield due to any non-preventable risk.

(b) and (d) Yes, Sir. Based on the recommendations of the Joint Group on Crop Insurance, constituted by the Government, a proposal on Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) has been prepared. Modified NAIS *inter alia* include reduction in the unit area of insurance for major crops, improved method of calculation of threshold yield; higher indemnity level; coverage of additional risk etc.

(e) and (f) In view of improvements in the proposed Modified NAIS more farmers would like to take insurance cover and hence, more farmers would be benefited by way of payment of compensation. As the scheme is yet to be finalized, no claim amount has been paid so far under the Modified NAIS.

Corruption in regional testing laboratories at Kanpur and Chandigarh

3658. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints have been received from the industry about corruption in the regional testing laboratories at Kanpur and Chandigarh;

(b) is there any specific complaint received about officials in the laboratory demanding ratifications for modification of reports on results;

(c) if so, the nature of enquiries made into these complaints;

(d) the action taken in the specific cases of complaints; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken to avoid corruption in national testing laboratories in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) A complaint was received from pesticides industry regarding analysis of pesticide samples at the two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories (RPTLs) located at Kanpur and Chandigarh. Following the complaint, some of the pesticide samples which were earlier tested by these RPTLs were re-analyzed at the Central Insecticides Laboratory (CIL), Faridabad. This revealed that a number of samples which were reported to be 'misbranded' or 'branded' by RPTLs were found 'branded' or 'misbranded' respectively. The officers in charge of RPTLs were placed under suspension and disciplinary proceedings initiated against them.

(e) Multi-tier coding system has been adopted in the Central Insecticides Laboratory (CIL), Faridabad as well as the Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories (RPTLs), Chandigarh and Kanpur so that identity of pesticide samples is not revealed right from receipt of sample to dispatch of the test report from the laboratory.

Co-operative farming

3659. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: